Indian Banks in England

3405. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government attention has been drawn to news item 'Indian banks discriminated against Barings favoured" which appeared in the Indian Express dated 5th March, 1995, and "Bank of England fails to save Indian Banks" which appeared in the "Hindustan Times" dated the 5th March, 1995;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction therefor;

(c) whether Government have brought to the notice to British Government the discrimination;

(d) whether the Mount Banking Corporation was involved in stock scam money transferred through Standard and Chartered Bank. and

(e) if so, what action is being initiated against those concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that the banks referred to in the news items are not Indian banks. These banks were UK corporated banks promoted primarily Indians of East African origin.

(d) RBI has intimated that Standard Chartered Bank had claimed that Mount Banking Corporation was involved in a scam related money laundering exercise to the tune of 150 MIO. The allegation was refuted by Mount Bank. Bank of England has appointed accountants to chck out the validty of the claim and counter claim made by both the banks.

(e) As the Mount Banking Corporation was incorporated in UK and had no operational presence in India, its operations did not fell within the purview of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.

Kidney Smuggling on the Rise

3406. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the press news item captioned "Kidney smuggling on the rise" as reported in the 'Statesman' dated 16th January, 1995;

(b) if so. whether the customs officials had conducted body searches on people suspected of smuggling contraband in pouches sewn into their abdomen;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to check smuggling of kidneys from the country: and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) Available reports with the Anti Smuggling agencies under the Ministry of Finance have not brought to notice any instance of smuggling of Kidneys. Field formation are alert to detecs and prevent smuggling including smuggling of human organs.

Discontinuation of salpa sanchay scheme by united bank of India

3407. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the United Bank of India has decided to discontinue the mini deposit scheme under the name "Salpa Sanchay" Scheme with immediate effect:

(b) whether as a result, bank is going to offer alternative source of employment to the agents:

(c) whether bank has substantial deposit mobilisation from the common people: and

(d) if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) United Bank of India has reported that as on 30.11.1994 the outstanding balance under the Scheme was about Rs. 100 crores in 2.7 lakh accounts.

संसद सदस्यों को उनके अध्ययन दौरों के लिए विदेशी मुद्रा उपलब्ध कराना

3498. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) संसद सदस्यों को उनके अध्ययन दौरों के लिए इस समय कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा दी जाती है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार इस राशि में वृद्धि करने का विचार रखती है ताकि संसद सदस्य अपने अध्ययन दौरों का अधिकतम उपयोग कर सकें ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम० वी० चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) कोई भी संसद सदस्य विदेशों में अध्ययन दौरों के प्रत्येक अध्ययन सत्र के लिए एक लाख रूपये के बराबर विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त कर सकता है।

(ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(घ) यह राशि केवल 1993 में ही 27,000 रूपये से बढ़ाकर एक लाख रूपये की गई है। इसके अलावा सरकारी दौरों के लिए नियमानुसार अतिरिक्त विदेशी मुद्रा जारी की जाती है।

Import duty on Resin

3499. SHRI B. K. HARI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pitiable condition of more than a lakh of workers engaged in resin tapping industry in Himachal and UP who have been rendered jobless because of liberalised import Policy of the Government resulting in flooding of imported resin from China, Indonesia and Brazil at cheaper rate;

(b) whether the import duty on resin is exempted thereby making it cheaper to domestic resin and thereby rendering many small scale units processing resin idle and their capacities grossly under-utilised; and

(c) whether Government would ensure placing the domestic resin industry on even keep by imposing countervailing duty on resin imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The reference appears to be in the context of oleo pine resin. Before this Budget, the import duty was 10% on such resin. Requests were received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh and Ministry of Environment and Forests for raising the import duty to 20% and for imposing a countervailing duty of 15%. The Government have raised the import duty on oleo pine resin from 10 per cent to 20 per cent in this year's Budget.

As oleo pine resin is exempted fully from excise duty, it is not possible to impose additional duty of customs on their import into India.

Government is not aware whether the present level of import duty has resulted in large scale unemployment in resin tapping industry in Himachal and UP.